

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



May 22, 2013

Dear Members of Congress:



I write to convey the strong support of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) for H.R. 1565, the "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act."



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



We commend Representatives Peter King and Mike Thompson for introducing this legislation that will take two important steps forward in strengthening and expanding the existing background check system. First, extending the federal background check requirement to gun shows, to online advertisements, postings, displays and other listings, and to publications will block prohibited purchasers from acquiring firearms through these additional channels. Second, encouraging states to report all of their disqualifying records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) will improve checks by ensuring that all prohibited purchasers are in the background check system.



Ideally, the legislation would require background checks for all gun sales, closing more avenues for criminals and the dangerously mentally ill seeking to acquire guns. However, this extension of background checks to all firearm sales at gun shows, and to postings online and in publications is an important step forward.



Background checks for firearm purchasers are highly effective in keeping guns from those too dangerous to possess them. According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, since the Brady Law took effect in 1994, background checks blocked more than 2 million prohibited purchases



from acquiring guns through federally licensed firearm dealers.

We urge you to support this important public safety measure, and if you have not done so already, we ask that you add your name as a cosponsor to this bill that we in law enforcement know will save lives.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

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